

 SCHOLASTIC

**BETWEEN
GRADES
6&7**

SUMMER EXPRESS



VOCABULARY • GRAMMAR • WRITING • READING • MATH

 SCHOLASTIC

**BETWEEN
GRADES
6&7**

SUMMER EXPRESS

TM

Summer Express Between Grades 6 & 7 © Scholastic Teaching Resources

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Dear Parent:



Congratulations! You hold in your hands an exceptional educational tool that will give your middle schooler a head start into the coming school year.

Inside this book, you will find one hundred practice pages that will help your middle schooler review and learn math, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and so much more! *Summer Express* is divided into ten weeks, with two practice pages for each day of the week, Monday to Friday. However, feel free to use the pages in any order that your middle schooler likes. Here are a few features you will find inside:

- Suggestions for fun, creative **learning activities** you can do with your child each week.
- A weekly **journal entry sheet** so that your middle schooler can record his or her goals for the week as well as respond to the journal entries.
- A **recommended reading list** of age-appropriate books that your middle schooler can read throughout the summer.
- A **certificate of completion** to celebrate your middle schooler's accomplishments.

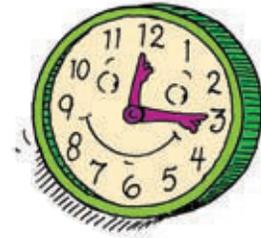
We hope you and your middle schooler will have fun as you work together to complete *Summer Express*!

Enjoy!
The Editors



Terrific Tips for Using This Book

1 Pick a good time for your middle schooler to work on the activities. You may want your child to do them around mid-morning or early afternoon when he or she is not too tired.



2 Make sure your middle schooler has all the supplies he or she needs, such as a ruler, pencils, erasers, and markers. Set aside a special place for your child to work.

3 At the beginning of each week, discuss how many minutes a day your child would like to read. We recommend that a student entering the seventh grade read 45 minutes to one hour a day. Half of this time should be spent on required summer reading and projects.



4 Reward your middle schooler's efforts with free time for video games, texting, or his or her favorite pastime. Set a goal for the week and a reasonable reward for achieving the goal.

5 Encourage your middle schooler to complete each worksheet, but do not force the issue. While you may want to ensure that your child succeeds, it is also important to maintain a positive and relaxed attitude toward school and learning.



6 After you have given your middle schooler a few minutes to look over the practice pages, ask what his or her plan is for completing the pages.

Hearing the explanation aloud can provide insight into his or her thinking processes. At this point, you can decide if your child can complete the work independently or needs guidance. If he or she needs support, try to allow your middle schooler choices about which family member he or she will be working with. Providing choices can help boost confidence and encourage your child to take more ownership in the work to be done.

7 When your child has finished the workbook, why not present the certificate of completion on page 143 at a family gathering or dinner at his or her favorite restaurant?





Skill-Building Activities for Any Time

The following activities are designed to complement the ten weeks of practice pages in this book. These activities do not take more than a few minutes to complete and can enrich and enliven your child's learning. Use these activities to turn otherwise idle time into productive time—for example, standing in line or waiting at the bus stop. It's a great way to practice key skills and have fun together at the same time.

Finding Real-Life Connections

One of the reasons for schooling is to help children function in the real world, to empower them with the abilities they will truly need. Why not put those developing skills into action by enlisting your child's help with reading a map, following a recipe, checking grocery receipts, calculating a restaurant tip, and so on? He or she can apply reading, writing, science, and math skills in important and practical ways, thereby connecting what he or she is learning with everyday tasks.



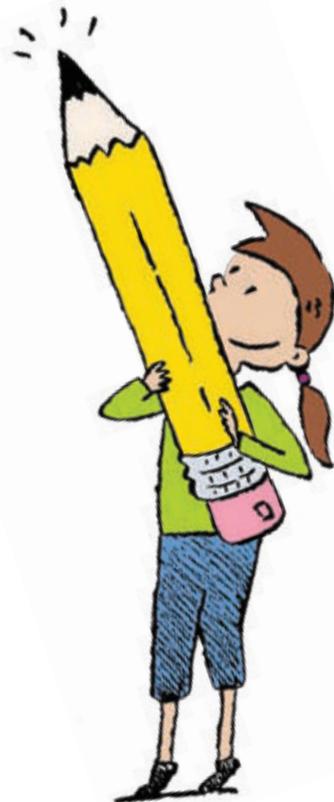
An Eye for Patterns

A red-brick sidewalk, a beaded necklace, a Sunday newspaper—all show evidence of structure and organization. Help your child recognize a variety of structures or types of organization by observing and talking about patterns they see. Your middle schooler will apply his or her developing ability to spot patterns across all school subject areas. The ability to identify patterns is a skill shared by effective readers, writers, scientists, and mathematicians.



Journals as Learning Tools

Journal writing reinforces reading comprehension, but it also helps your middle schooler develop skills in many academic areas as well. A journal can simply be a spiral notebook, a composition notebook, or sheets of paper stapled together. Your middle schooler will be writing and/or drawing in the journal to complement the practice pages completed each week. The journal provides another tool for monitoring the progress of newly learned skills and practicing those that need improvement. Before moving on to another set of practice pages, take a few minutes to read and discuss that week's journal entries with your child.



Promote Reading at Home

- ◆ Practice what you preach! You and your middle schooler should both read for pleasure, whether you like reading science-fiction novels or do-it-yourself magazines. Reading should not always be work. **Sometimes we should read just for fun!** Keeping reading materials around the house encourages you to read in front of your child and demonstrates that reading is an activity you enjoy.
- ◆ Set aside a family reading time. By designating a reading time each week, your family is assured an opportunity to discuss what everyone is reading. For example, you might share a funny quote from an article, or your middle schooler can tell you his or her favorite part of a story. The key is to **make a family tradition of reading—and sharing what you've read.**
- ◆ **Make a family collection of reading materials** easily accessible by everyone. Designate a specific place for library books and post the return date. This idea will help prevent library fines. Keep reading materials fresh and interesting by buying used books, swapping books and magazines with friends and neighbors, as well as checking out books from the library.

Skills Review and Practice

Educators have established learning standards for math and language arts. Listed below are some of the important skills covered in *Summer Express* that will help your middle schooler review and prepare for the coming school year so that he or she is ready to meet these learning standards.

Math

6th Grade Skills to Review

- ◆ using the four arithmetic operations
- ◆ converting/computing different forms of numbers
- ◆ determining circumference of circles and area and perimeter of plane figures
- ◆ working flexibly with fractions, decimals, and percents
- ◆ developing and using fluently strategies for computing with fractions, decimals, and integers
- ◆ creating, selecting, and using appropriate graphical representation of data understanding
- ◆ applying basic concepts of probability and statistics
- ◆ using logical reasoning
- ◆ converting measurements

Skills to Practice for 7th Grade

- ◆ using the concept of ratio, proportion, percent
- ◆ understanding the meaning of operations on rational numbers, including square roots of perfect squares and whole number powers
- ◆ applying formulas to find measurements of plane and solid figures
- ◆ understanding the location of points on a coordinate grid in any of the four quadrants
- ◆ evaluating expressions and formulas and considering order of operations
- ◆ devising a plan to solve a problem
- ◆ applying a variety of strategies to solve two-step equations with one variable
- ◆ using estimation to determine the reasonableness of answers
- ◆ applying concepts and procedures from probability and statistics

Language Arts

6th Grade Skills to Review

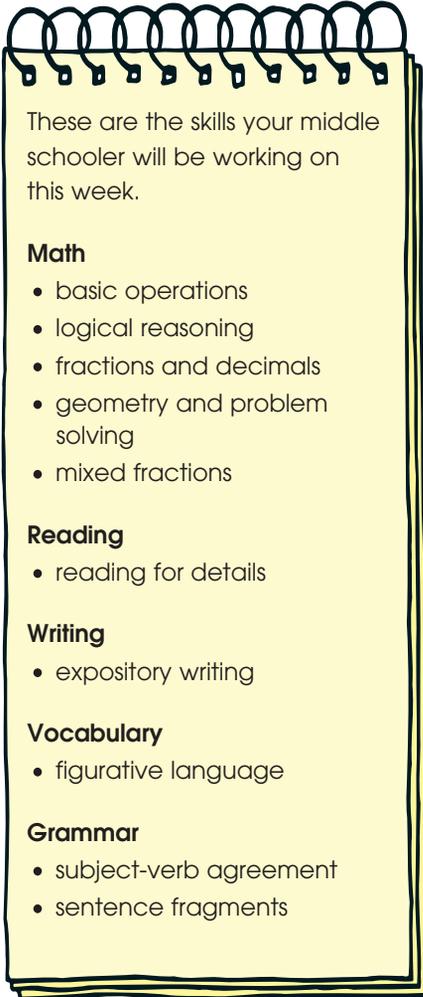
- ◆ improving capitalization and punctuation
- ◆ working with spelling, vocabulary, and usage
- ◆ determining correct sentence structure (fragments, phrases, and clauses)
- ◆ practicing writing in various modes and genres
- ◆ identifying figurative language and precise language
- ◆ using reference sources, including electronic reference materials
- ◆ using alphabetical order, table of contents, index
- ◆ demonstrating knowledge of appropriate critical-thinking skills (main idea, fact or opinion, sequence, cause and effect; reading for details, information, and understanding)
- ◆ correcting subject-verb agreement
- ◆ diagramming direct objects and prepositional phrases

Skills to Practice for 7th Grade

- ◆ using different skills and strategies to read different genres
- ◆ demonstrating evidence of reading comprehension
- ◆ understanding and applying knowledge of text components to comprehend text
- ◆ reading new information or performing a task
- ◆ improving use of punctuation, capitalization, and spelling
- ◆ recognizing and differentiating among types of sentences
- ◆ using correctly clauses, phrases, gerunds, infinitives, and appositives
- ◆ understanding root words, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones
- ◆ identifying commonly used foreign words and phrases
- ◆ gathering information from a variety of sources



Helping Your Middle Schooler Get Ready: Week 1



Here are some activities you and your middle schooler might enjoy.

Something New to Wear Help your middle schooler make shorts from that favorite pair of jeans or pants that are too short. Measure the inseam length for the shorts. Have your child measure the inside leg of the pants and mark one inch longer than the inseam measurement for the shorts. Make sure he or she marks all the way around the pant leg. Carefully cut the leg of the pants; follow the line with either a straight edge or pinking shears. Folding and hemming the cut edge will give a finished, more tailored look and prevent fraying. A rough edge will give a frayed, casual finish.

Good Deed Invite your child to look around the house to see what needs to be done. He or she might do a load of laundry, wash the dishes, mow the lawn, volunteer to walk the dog, and/or watch a little sister or brother while you go to the store. Encourage your middle schooler to develop the habit of being helpful, without being asked. You'll both be surprised at the positive results.

Your middle schooler might enjoy reading the following books:

Ellis Island

(Cornerstones of Freedom series)

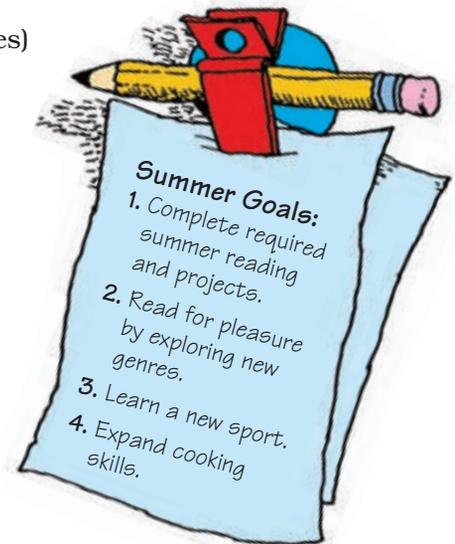
by Judith Jango-Cohen

Souder

by William H. Armstrong

The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom

by Margarita Engle





My Week at a Glance



Use this page to set goals and make journal entries.

Goals for Monday

Journal: Who is your favorite musical performer? What five questions would you ask him or her if you had the opportunity to interview this performer?

Goals for Tuesday

Goals for Wednesday

Journal: Describe what your life will be like in 20 years.

Goals for Thursday

Goals for Friday

Journal: You are a scientist who has just solved the mystery of why a meatball does not bounce. Explain your findings to the press.



Math Number Puzzle

Complete the math puzzle by solving the across and down problems below. Write your numeric answers in the appropriate boxes in the puzzle. Commas should not be part of your answer.

A			B		C	D
					E	
		F				
	G					
	H	I		J		K
L						
M				N		

Across

A. $9,257 - 6,982 =$

C. $19 \times 4 =$

E. $100 \div 2 =$

F. $4,507 \times 4 =$

H. $25 + 26 =$

J. $448 + 487 =$

L. $5,860 + 8,548 =$

M. $808 + 36 =$

N. $25 \times 29 =$

Down

A. $4 \times 62 =$

B. $6,072 - 888 =$

C. $8,357 \times 9 =$

D. $2,432 \div 4 =$

G. $424 \times 6 =$

I. $12 \times 12 =$

J. $187 + 800 =$

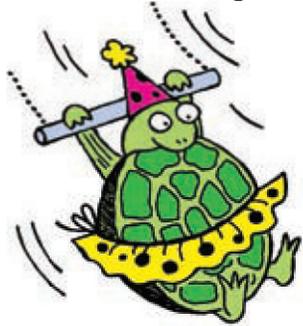
K. $1545 \div 3 =$

L. $9 \times 2 =$



Talent Show

Plan a schedule for a pet talent show by filling in the program below. Use the information given about your performers and this key requirement—all acts last about 15 minutes, no longer. (After all, how long would you want to listen to a gerbil's jokes?).



Pet Performer Data

- The hamster does headstands. He's a ham and wants to go last.
- The gerbil tells jokes. She's jumpy and won't go first.
- The puppy fetches. That's boring. Get this act over with early on.
- The kitten juggles yarn. She won't perform just before or after the dog or parakeet.
- The parakeet does funny impersonations. She won't follow a comic.

Pet Talent Show

Act	Time
Intermission for Pet Exercise and Water Break (20 minutes)	12 noon



The Old-Fashioned Way

Old-time soda jerks had some strange names for the treats they served. Listed are ten of those names. To translate each old-time phrase into modern-day prose, change each fraction to a decimal, then find that decimal next to one of the modern phrases. Write the letter of the answer in the blank provided.



Converting Fractions to Decimals

To write a fraction as a decimal, divide the numerator by the denominator.

Example: $\frac{4}{5} \longrightarrow \begin{array}{r} .8 \\ 5 \overline{)4.0} \end{array}$
 $\frac{4}{5} = .8$

Old-Time Phrase		Modern Phrase
_____ 1. Suds in the Air	$\frac{3}{5}$	A. .6 Glass of Root Beer
_____ 2. One on the City	$\frac{3}{4}$	B. .36 Two Orders of Strawberry Ice Cream
_____ 3. Burn One All the Way	$\frac{5}{8}$	C. .625 Chocolate Malted With Chocolate Ice Cream
_____ 4. M.D. on Wheels	$\frac{17}{50}$	D. 2.5 Banana Split
_____ 5. Pair of Patches	$\frac{9}{25}$	E. .15 Large Scoop of Chocolate Ice Cream
_____ 6. Sinkers and Suds	$\frac{3}{2}$	F. 1.5 Coffee and Donuts
_____ 7. House Boat	$\frac{5}{2}$	G. .34 Dr. Pepper to Go
_____ 8. Bucket of Mud	$\frac{3}{20}$	H. .13 Chocolate Malted With an Egg in It
_____ 9. Twist It, Choke It	$\frac{2}{15}$	I. .75 Glass of Water
_____ 10. Stretch One and Hold	$\frac{2}{3}$	J. .66 Large Coke Without Ice